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Utility Patent Application Transmittal
(Only for new non-provisional applications Under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

Case Docket No. 0325.00370
Date: September 28, 2000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a patent application of:

Inventor(s): Paul Lap Tak Cheng, Kuang-Yu Chen, Frank Hwang, Hueng-Cheng Eric Chen and Hyunbae Kim

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OVERCLOCKING RECOVERY IN A PLL

Enclosed are:

1. ☒ Specification (19 pages); Claims (5 pages); Abstract (1 page)
2. ☒ 4 sheets of formal drawings.
3. ☒ Oath or Declaration Total Pages 4
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Item 5 completed)
 - c. ☐ Copy of Revocation of Previous Power
4. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Item 3b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Item 3b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
5. ☐ If a Continuing Application, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)
of prior application no.:
6. ☒ An assignment to CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR CORP. along with PTO form 1595.
7. ☐ A PTO Form 1449 with a copy of the references not previously cited.
8. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
9. ☐ Other:

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

| | No. Filed | No. Extra | Fee | Amount |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Basic Fee | -- | -- | -- | \$690.00 |
| Total Claims | 20 | 0 | x \$ 18.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Indep. Claims | 3 | 0 | x \$ 78.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Mult. Dep. Claims | | | \$260.00 | \$ 0.00 |

SUB-TOTAL \$690.00

SMALL ENTITY STATUS (divide SUB-TOTAL by two) \$

X Assignment Recordal Fee (\$40.00) \$ 40.00

TOTAL \$730.00

X A check in the amount of \$730.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

X The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper or associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-0541. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via Express Mail Label No. EL561050097US in an envelope addressed to: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 28, 2000.

By:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: 0325.00370

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OVER-CLOCKING RECOVERY IN A PLL

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method and/or
5 architecture for over-clocking generally and, more particularly, to
a method and/or architecture for over-clocking recovery in a phase
lock loop.

Background of the Invention

Microprocessors can be characterized by a number of
10 ratings. The ratings can include a nominal clock rate, an input
clock range, and an input clock slew rate. The nominal clock
rating can be conservative. A microprocessor with a conservative
nominal clock rating can have a margin of higher clock rates at
15 which the microprocessor will operate. Operating a microprocessor
above the nominal clock rating is referred to as over-clocking.

Programmable clock circuits are used by motherboard
manufacturers to enable a user to overclock the microprocessor.
However, when the over-clocking frequency exceeds the input
20 frequency range of the microprocessor, the microprocessor can lose

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track of the clock input and hang. In addition, if the frequency of the programmable clock circuit changes faster than the microprocessor can track (i.e., the slew rating of the microprocessor is exceeded), the microprocessor can lose track of the input clock and hang.

Referring to FIG. 1, a block diagram illustrating a microprocessor system 10 is shown. The system 10 consists of a motherboard 12, a microprocessor 14, a system block 16 that includes memory, inputs/outputs, and peripherals, and a clock circuit 18. The clock circuit 18 presents a clock signal CPUCLK to the microprocessor 14 and a clock signal SYSCLK to the system block 16. When over-clocking is desired, the frequency of the signal CPUCLK is increased above the nominal value for the microprocessor 14. If the frequency of the signal CPUCLK is set too high or changes too quickly, the microprocessor 14 will lose track and hang.

When the microprocessor 14 hangs, a recovery mechanism is required to restart the microprocessor system 10. One conventional method for over-clocking recovery is for the motherboard 12 to incorporate a separate watchdog timer or resistive-capacitive (RC) delay circuit 20. The circuit 20 resets the microprocessor after

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a preset amount of time if not disabled. The clock circuit 18 is reset to a default frequency for restarting the microprocessor 14. The default frequency of a conventional clock circuit 18 is set during fabrication or by jumpers 22 on the motherboard.

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Summary of the Invention

The present invention concerns an apparatus comprising a circuit that may be configured to (i) change a frequency of one or more first signals in response to a second signal and (ii) generate a third signal in response to either the second signal or a predetermined time period expiring.

The objects, features and advantages of the present invention include providing a method and/or architecture for over-clocking recovery in a PLL that may (i) generate a reset signal when a new frequency is loaded, (ii) reset a system when the microprocessor hangs, (iii) provide a user programmable recovery frequency, (iv) require no additional reset or frequency recovery components external to the PLL circuit, (v) provide additional bus interface timing margin, (vi) automatically select an over-clocking frequency, (vii) provide relative timing adjustment between clock

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signals, and/or (viii) determine an optimum system operating frequency.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and the appended claims and drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a microprocessor system;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating an example operation in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

15 FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

20 Referring to FIG. 2, a block diagram of a circuit 100 is shown in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The circuit 100 may be a programmable clock circuit for

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use in microprocessor systems. In one example, commands for programming the programmable clock circuit may be incorporated in the basic input/output system (BIOS) commands or program routines of a motherboard. The BIOS commands or program routines may be
5 stored in a non-volatile computer readable medium (e.g., BIOS ROM, boot disk, etc.).

The circuit 100 may be interfaced, in one example, via an inter-integrated circuit (I²C) bus interface. However, other appropriate interfaces may be implemented to meet the design
10 criteria of a particular application. The I²C bus may be implemented as a fully bi-directional 2-wire serial bus. The I²C bus may be compliant with the I²C specification version 1.0 (published 1992), version 2.0 (published 1998), and/or version 2.1 (published 2000) by Philips Semiconductors each of which are hereby
15 incorporated by reference in their entirety (version 2.1 is available on the Internet at <http://www-us.semiconductors.com/i2c/>). Commands and data for programming the programmable clock circuit 100 may be sent via the I²C bus. The commands may result in the data being stored in registers, latches,
20 programmable counters, timers, etc. of the circuit 100.

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The circuit 100 may be configured to present a clock signal that may allow the over-clocking of the microprocessor. The circuit 100 may be further configured to recover from a processor hang due to the over-clocking. The circuit 100 may have an input 102 that may receive a signal (e.g., EXTOSC), an input 104 that may receive a signal (e.g., SDATA), and input 106 that may receive a signal (e.g., SCLOCK), an output 108 that may present a signal (e.g., RESET), a number of outputs 110a-110n that may present a number of signals (e.g., CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, APIC, etc.), and an output 112 that may present a signal (e.g., USB).

The signal EXTOSC may be implemented as a clock signal. The signal EXTOSC may generated by an external oscillator circuit 114. The signal SDATA and SCLOCK may be serial data and clock signals, respectively. The signals SDATA and SCLOCK may be implemented, in one example, in compliance with a serial communication or bus standard, for example, the inter-integrated circuit (I²C) bus specification version 1.0 (published 1992), version 2.0 (published 1998), and/or version 2.1 (published 2000) by Philips Semiconductors, each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

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The signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC may be implemented as system clock signals. In one example, the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC may be used as clock signals for a central processor unit, a synchronous dynamic random access memory, an accelerated graphics port, a peripheral component interconnect, and an advanced programmable interrupt controller, respectively. However, other numbers and uses of signals may be implemented accordingly to meet the design criteria of a particular application. For example, two or more (or all) of the components of the microprocessor system may use the same clock signal.

The signal USB may be a clock signal presented at a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port. The signal USB may be compliant with the USB specification 1.0 (published November 1996), the USB specification 1.1 (published September 1998), and/or the USB specification 2.0 (published April 27, 2000), each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. The signal RESET may be implemented, in one example, as a system reset signal. However, more than one reset signal may be implemented accordingly to meet the design criteria of a particular application. For

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example, a processor reset signal may be implemented separately from a system reset signal.

The circuit 100 may comprise a circuit 120, a circuit 122, a circuit 124, a circuit 126, a circuit 128, a circuit 130, and a circuit 132. The circuit 120 may be implemented as a phase lock loop (PLL) circuit. The circuit 122 may be implemented as a programmable PLL circuit. For example, the circuit 122 may comprise a number of programmable counters, and/or a programmable VCO. The circuit 124 may be implemented as a divider network that may comprise a number of divider circuits. In one example, the divider network may comprise a number of programmable divider circuits. The circuit 126 may comprise a logic circuit that may be configured to control an amount of skew between a number of signals. The circuit 128 may be implemented as an interface circuit. In one example, the circuit 128 may be an I²C interface circuit. Alternatively, the circuit 128 may be implemented as any appropriate interface circuit for controlling and/or programming the circuit 100 in accordance with the design criteria of a particular application. The circuits 130 and 132 may be implemented as timer circuits. The circuit 130 may be used as a

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watchdog timer circuit for detecting a microprocessor hang. The circuit 132 may be used as a reset timer circuit for controlling a reset time of the microprocessor and/or the microprocessor system.

The signal EXTOSC may be presented to an input 136 of the circuit 120. The circuit 120 may be configured to generate the signal USB in response to the signal EXTOSC.

The circuit 122 may be implemented, in one example, as a programmable phase lock loop (PLL) circuit. For example, a user may program one or more frequencies, a frequency range, a gain, an acquisition rate, a duty cycle, etc. depending on the particular programmable PLL circuitry implemented. The circuit 122 may have an input 138 that may receive the signal EXTOSC, an input 140 that may receive a signal (e.g., FREQ), and an output 142 that may present a signal (e.g., CLK) to an input 144 of the circuit 124. The signal CLK may be implemented as a clock signal. The signal FREQ may be a frequency control signal. The signal FREQ may be, in one example, a multi-bit control signal. Alternatively, the signal FREQ may comprise a number of control signals. The signal FREQ may be used, for example, to program (i) input, output, and/or feedback

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dividers, (ii) VCO gain, and/or (iii) any other appropriate means of varying the frequency of the signal CLK.

The circuit 124 may be implemented, in one example, as a divider network. The circuit 124 may have an input 146 that may receive a number of signals (e.g., DIVa-DIVn), and a number of outputs 148a-148n that may present a number of signals (e.g., CLK1-CLKn). In one example, the signals CLK1-CLKn may be implemented as clock signals. The circuit 124 may be configured to generate the signals CLK1-CLKn, in one example, by dividing the signal CLK in response to the signals DIVa-DIVn. Alternatively, the signals DIVa-DIVn may be used to program a number of programmable dividers that may be configured to generate one or more of the signals CLK1-CLKn in response to either the signal CLK or different ones of the signals CLK1-CLKn. Alternatively, the circuit 124 may be configured to generate the signals CLK1-CLKn in response to the signals CLK and FREQ.

The circuit 126 may be implemented, in one example, as a skew control logic circuit. The circuit 126 may have a number of inputs 150a-150n that may receive the signals CLK1-CLKn and an input 152 that may receive a signal (e.g., SKEW_CONTROL). The

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circuit 126 may be configured to generate a number of signals (e.g., the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, APIC, etc.) in response to the signal SKEW_CONTROL and the signals CLK1-CLKn. The signal SKEW_CONTROL may control an amount of skew between, for example, the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC. For example, the circuit 128 may be used to delay or pull-in the signal CPUCLK (or any other signal) by a preset value (e.g., within a range of 150 ps to 600 ps) relative to other signals or signal groups. In another example, the skew of one or more of the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC may be relative to one or more others of the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC. The skew may be controlled for any one or combination of the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC.

In one example, controlling the skew of the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC may provide additional timing margin for any timing critical bus interface. Controlling the skew of the signals CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC may provide higher frequency over-clocking than is possible without controlling skew. The programmable skew may also provide flexibility to adjust the relative timing between the signals

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CPUCLK, SDRAM, AGPCLK, PCICLK, and APIC without hardware changes or a redesign of the system boards.

The signals SDATA and SCLOCK may be presented to the circuit 128. The circuit 128 may have an output 154 that may present the signals FREQ and DIVa-DIVn, an output 156 that may present the signal SKEW_CONTROL, an output 158 that may present a signal (e.g., RUNWD), and an output 162 that may present the signal RST. In one example, the signals FREQ, DIVa-DIVn, RST, and RUNWD may be generated in response to commands and/or data received using the signals SDATA and SCLOCK. The signals RST and RUNWD may be control signals. The signal RUNWD may be used, in one example, to program a watchdog interval in the circuit 130. The signal RUNWD may also be used to control the operation of the circuit 130 (e.g., starting or stopping a counting or timing operation). The signal RST may be used to program a reset time interval in the circuit 132. The signal RST may also be used to initiate a reset of the processor in response to a change of the frequency of the circuit

The circuit 130 may be implemented as a programmable counter, programmable timer, or other appropriate circuit for

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performing a watchdog timing function. The circuit 130 may have an input 160 that may receive the signal RUNWD and an output 166 that may present a signal (e.g., SYS_RST) to an input 168 of the circuit 132. The signal SYS_RST may be used as a system reset signal. The
5 circuit 130 may be configured to start timing (or counting) in response to the circuit 100 receiving a command to change frequency. The circuit 130 may be configured to stop timing in response to the circuit 100 receiving an indication, in one example, that the processor is executing the BIOS routines.

10 The circuit 130 may be configured to generate the signal SYS_RST in response to a processor hang (e.g., reaching a predetermined time or count without the circuit 100 receiving the indication that the processor is executing the BIOS routines). The watchdog timer circuit 130 may start incrementing in response to
15 the assertion of the signal RUNWD. The watchdog timer circuit 130 generally increments to a predetermined value unless the signal RUNWD is de-asserted. The predetermined value may be user programmed (via the interface circuit 128). If the signal RUNWD is de-asserted, the watchdog timer circuit 130 may return to an

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initial value. If the signal RUNWD remains asserted, the watchdog timer circuit 130 will generally reset the system.

The circuit 132 may be implemented, in one example, as a programmable timer or counter. However, other appropriate circuits may be implemented accordingly to meet the design criteria of a particular application. The circuit 132 may be configured to generate the signal RESET in response to either the signal RST or the signal SYS_RST. The circuit 132 may be configured to assert the signal RESET for a predetermined period of time that may be programmed in response to the signal RST. The signal RESET generated in response to the signal RST (e.g., a change in frequency) may be different (e.g., longer or shorter) from the signal RESET generated in response to the signal SYS_RST (e.g., a microprocessor hang).

Referring to FIG. 3, a flow diagram illustrating an example operation of a clock circuit implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. The process described below may be used to (i) recover from a processor hang due to over-clocking, and/or (ii) determine an optimum frequency for over-clocking a particular processor based system.

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Following power-up, a microprocessor system may begin executing instruction stored in a BIOS ROM (e.g., block 300). The instructions in the BIOS ROM may direct the microprocessor to program the circuit 100 with a new over-clocking frequency (e.g.,
5 block 302). The new over-clocking frequency may be, in one example, a predetermined (default) over-clocking frequency. Alternatively, the new over-clocking frequency may be a step in a process for determining an optimum over-clocking frequency. The reprogramming of the circuit 100 may be accomplished via an inter-
10 integrated circuit (I²C) bus. In response to the new over-clocking frequency, the circuit 100 may be configured to alter the frequency of a clock generator (e.g., a PLL, oscillator, etc.), start a watchdog timer, and present a reset signal to a pin of the microprocessor (e.g., block 304). The watchdog timer may be
15 programmed at manufacture with a predetermined (default) value or programmed via the I²C bus.

Following the reset, the microprocessor once again may begin executing instructions contained in the BIOS ROM (e.g., block 306). When the BIOS successfully starts to execute, the BIOS may
20 instruct the processor to stop the watchdog timer (e.g., block

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308). The processor may, in one example, send a command via the I²C bus to stop the timer circuit 130. The process may be repeated until an optimum over-clocking frequency is determined (e.g., the arrow 309). An optimum over-clocking frequency may be, in one
5 example, the highest frequency that the processor will run at without hanging. Each time a new over-clocking frequency is used successfully to start the processor, the new frequency may be stored (e.g., in a latch, a register, a memory, etc.). When the storage medium is volatile, cycling the power may not be possible.

10 If a new over-clocking frequency results in a microprocessor hang, the BIOS instructions will generally not be executed and the watchdog timer will not be stopped. Once the watchdog timer reaches a maximum value (e.g., a predetermined time has passed or a maximum count is reached), a reset signal may be
15 generated to reset the entire microprocessor system (e.g., block 310). In one example, the circuit 100 may be configured to use a predetermined (known) good frequency to clock the microprocessor following the system reset. Alternatively, the circuit 100 may be
20 configured to use the last optimum over-clocking frequency that successfully started the system (e.g., block 312).

The circuit 100 may be configured to reset the processor with each frequency change to avoid a hang related to glitches resulting from the frequency change. The reset may be a software and/or hardware reset implemented to meet the design criteria of a particular application.

Referring to FIG. 4, a block diagram a circuit 500 illustrating a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. The circuit 100 may be used to over-clock a processor 502 and provide over-clocking recovery when the processor 502 hangs. The processor 502 may have an input 504 that may receive the signal CPUCLK, an input 506 that may receive the signal RESET, and an input/output 508 that may connect to communication bus 510 (e.g., an I2C bus). The circuit 100 may be programmed and controlled via the bus 510.

The present invention may provide a method and/or apparatus for over-clocking recovery in a PLL based programmable clock circuit that may (i) generate a reset signal when a new frequency is loaded, (ii) reset the system when the BIOS fails to begin executing, (iii) provide a user programmable recovery frequency, (iv) require no additional reset or frequency recovery

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components external to the PLL circuit, (v) provide additional bus interface timing margin, (vi) provide high frequency over-clocking, (vii) provide relative timing adjustment between clock signals, and/or (viii) determine an optimum system operating frequency.

5 While the present invention has been described using PLL circuits, other oscillator circuits (e.g., delay lock loops, ring oscillators, etc.) may be implemented to meet the design criteria of a particular application. The present invention may be implemented using a combination of software/firmware (e.g., BIOS routines) and/or circuitry (e.g., PLLs, timers, counters, logic
10 circuits, combinatorial logic, state machines, etc.). While the present invention has been discussed in the context of particular BIOS program routines, appropriate software coding can readily be prepared by skilled programmers based on the teachings of the
15 present disclosure, as will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s).

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to the preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes

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in form and details may be made without departing from the spirit
and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising:

a circuit configured to (i) change a frequency of one or more first signals in response to a second signal and (ii) generate a third signal in response to either said second signal or a predetermined time period expiring.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second signal programs said frequency.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more first signals are generated by one or more phase lock loop circuits.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said second signal programs said one or more phase lock loop circuits.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more first signals are generated using a divider network.

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6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined time period is programmable.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined time period is started in response to said second signal.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said circuit comprises a watchdog timer circuit that measures said predetermined time period.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said first signals is presented to a clock input of a processor and said third signal is presented to a reset input of said processor.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second signal is generated using a number of instructions executed by said processor.

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11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said instructions are contained in a computer readable medium.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said instructions are part of a basic input output system (BIOS) routine.

13. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said predetermined time period expires only when said processor hangs.

14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said third signal has a first duration when generated in response to said second signal and a second duration when generated in response to the expiration of said predetermined time period.

15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said circuit comprises an inter-integrated circuit (I²C) interface circuit.

16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said circuit is configured to skew said one or more first signals.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said skew is programmable.

18. An apparatus comprising:

means for changing a frequency of one or more first signals in response to a second signal; and

means for generating a third signal in response to either said second signal or a predetermined time period expiring.

19. A method for recovering in a phase lock loop circuit from a processor hang due to over-clocking comprising the steps of:

(A) changing a frequency of a clock signal;

(B) resetting said processor in response to said frequency change; and

(C) detecting whether said processor hangs in response to said frequency change.

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20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising
the step of:

(D) when said processor hangs, changing said frequency
of said clock signal to a fail-safe frequency and resetting said

5 processor.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus comprising a circuit that may be configured to (i) change a frequency of one or more first signals in response to a second signal and (ii) generate a third signal in response to either the second signal or a predetermined time period expiring.

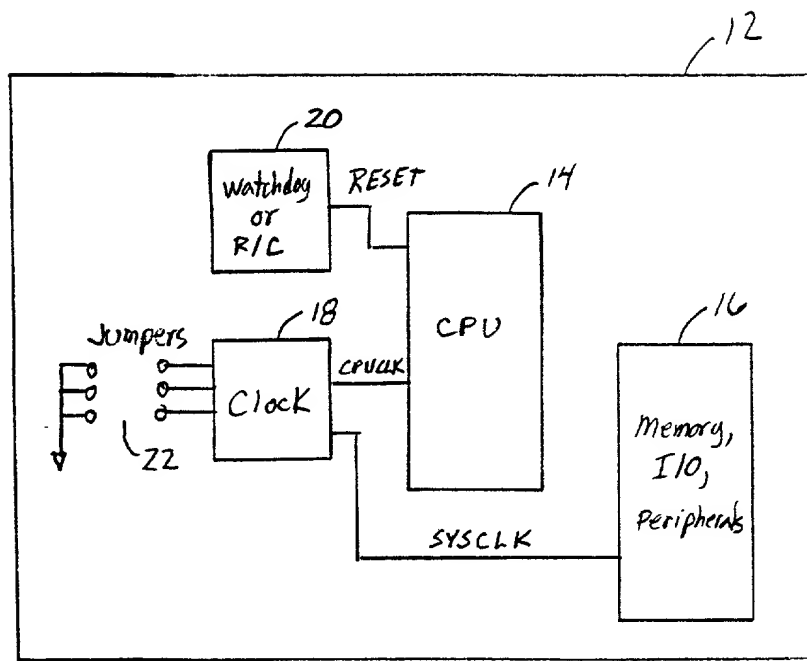
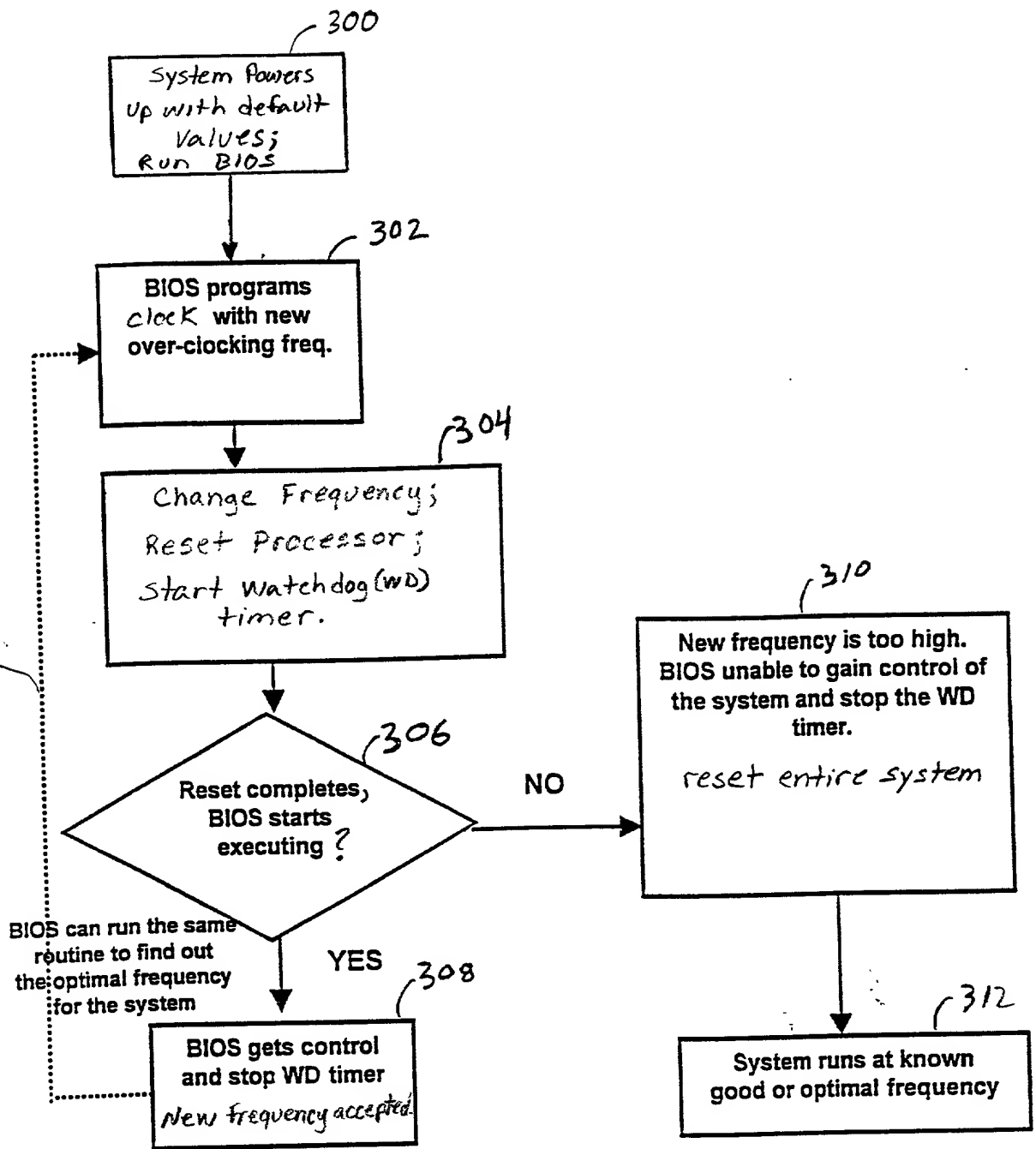


FIG. 1



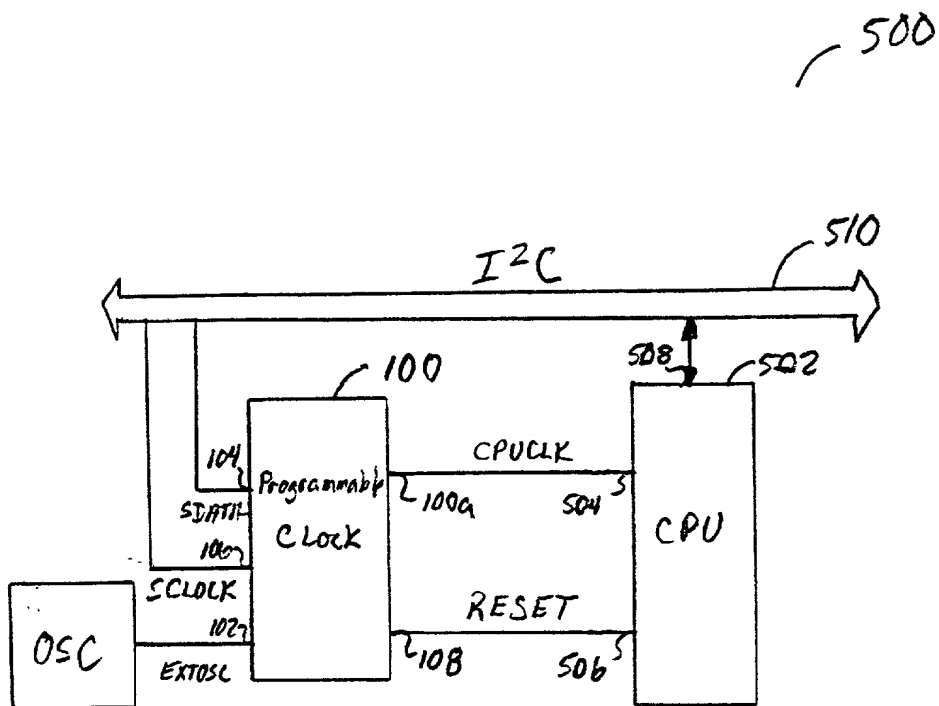


FIG. 4

Docket No. 0325.00370

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

We, the undersigned inventors, hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are given next to my name;

We believe that we are the first, original and joint inventors of the subject matter claimed in the application for patent entitled "**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OVERCLOCKING RECOVERY IN A PLL**", which:

X is submitted herewith;

_____ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and amended on _____.

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified application for patent (hereinafter, "this application"), including the claims;

We acknowledge the duty under Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office information known to be material to the patentability of this application. We also acknowledge that information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already provided to the United States Patent and Trademark Office and when it either

compels, by itself or in combination with other information, a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the application, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability, or

refutes or is inconsistent with a position taken in either (i) asserting an argument of patentability, or (ii) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the United States Patent and Trademark Office;

We hereby claim the priority benefit under Title 35, Section 119(e), of the following United States provisional patent applications:

Application No.

Filing Date

We hereby claim the priority benefit under Title 35, Section 120, of the following United States patent applications:

Serial No.

Filing Date

Status

Docket No. 0325.00370

Page 2 of 3

We hereby claim the priority benefit under Title 35, Section 365(c), of the following PCT International patent applications designating the United States:

Application No.Filing Date

Where the subject matter of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the United States or PCT priority patent applications identified above, we acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application that became available between the filing dates of this application and of the priority United States or PCT patent applications.

We hereby appoint as our attorneys with full power of substitution to prosecute this application and conduct all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office associated with this application: Customer No. 021363.

**21363**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

We declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

Paul Lap Tak Cheng

Name of First Joint Inventor

Signature of First Joint Inventor

9/27/00

Date

Kuang-Yu Chen

Name of Second Joint Inventor

Signature of Second Joint Inventor

Date

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We hereby claim the priority benefit under Title 35, Section 365(c), of the following PCT International patent applications designating the United States:

Application No.Filing Date

Where the subject matter of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the United States or PCT priority patent applications identified above, we acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application that became available between the filing dates of this application and of the priority United States or PCT patent applications.

We hereby appoint as our attorneys with full power of substitution to prosecute this application and conduct all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office associated with this application: Customer No. 021363.

**21363**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

We declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

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